(b) and (c) For increasing the productivity and production of foodgrains, crop oriented production programmes viz. Integrated Cereals Development Programme —Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals; and National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) are being implemented. Besides, programmes for increasing the use of fertiliser in low consumption areas and extension of irrigation facilities are being implemented to improve the production of crops.

The Schemes focus on augmenting the availability of critical inputs through subsidised distribution of certified seeds, herbicides, plant protection chemicals, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field demonstrations and farmers training programmes are organised to assist the farmers and improve their skills for adoption of rainfed production technology in respect of maize and millets as well as promoting effective control of weeds through use of herbicides.

Suggestions by CTRI

1692. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) has suggested that farmers use more potash fertilizer in tobacco cultivation to reduce tar content of tobacco;

(b) whether CTRI has conducted any experimental programmes to test this finding; and

(c) if so, the details the eof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) has suggested to the farmers to apply only the recommended dooses of potassic fertilizers as given below:

Northern light soils of Andhra Pradesh 80-120 kg/ha depending upon the availability of potash in soil; Southern light soils of Andhra Pradesh—60 kg/ha; southern black soils of Andhra Pradesh-50 kg/ha and light soils of Karnataka-80 kg/ha.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Recommended doses have given significant reduction of total particulate matter such as smoke nicotine and carbon monoxide by exogenous application to increase leaf potash (K) content to 3.5 to 4.0 per cent. The higher dose has not indicated significant increase in yield. The CTRI has a continuing programme for safer tobacco to reduce tar content.

CM-12 Variety of Tobacco

1693. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Tabocco Research Institute (CTRI) has evolved a new variety of tobacco called CM-12 for Northern light soils in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether CM12, can be grown in areas of East and West Godaveri districts in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The FCV tobacco variety CM-12 is recommended for growing in irrigated conditions and light soil areas of East Godavari, West Godavari districts and Khammam districts of Andhra Pradesh.

High Pesticide residue of Crops

1694. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of our crops have high pesticide residue:

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to reduce pesticide residue: and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Sir, if the pesticides are used as per Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), their residues do not persist in food crops.

(b) and (c) The following steps are being taken/proposed to be taken to reduce pesticides residues:—

1. The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 grants registration to an insecticide after satisfying itself on the basis of the comprehensive data on safety to human being and its efficacy against concerned pest without leaving toxic residue in food commodities at harvest.

2. The Registration Committee while granting a certificate of registration also attach a set of approved labels and leaflets which contain details regarding proper use of insecticide like proper doses, time, method of application, type of equipment to be used and interval between the application of pesticide and harvest so that there should be no toxic residues at the time of harvest in food commodities.

3. The Government is implementing Integrated Pest Management Programme for pest control which inter-alia focusses on adoption of suitable cultural and mechanical practices, use of botanical and biopesticides, use of biocontrole agents and judicious use of chemical pesticides based on economic threshold level of pests.

Production of Wheat in Madhya Pradesh

1695. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Madhya Pradesh produces the best quality of wheat in the country;

(b) if so, what was the production of wheat in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a gradual reduction in the production of wheat in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what action Government proposes to take to increase the production of wheat in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Madhya Pradesh is one of the States which is producing farm varieties of wheat.

(b) The production of wheat during the last three years in Madhya Pradesh is as follows:—

(in '000 tonnes)

1991-92	5138.0
1992-93	5242.6
1993-94	6160.5

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) For increasing the productivity and production of wheat in the State, crop oriented production programme viz. Integrated Cereals Development Programme—Wheat is being implemented. Besides, programmes for inreasing the use of fertiliser in low consumption areas and extension of irrigation facilities are being implemented to improve the production of crop.

Development of Agriculture in Madhya Pradesh

1696. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for sustained development of agriculture on a long term basis in the state of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) what are the details thereof?